Year	Expenditure in Rs. crore
2004-05	5.09
2005-06	5.47
2006-07	7.16
2007-08 (up to October, 2007)	6.47
TOTAL:	24.19

(d) and (e) The funds are allocated State-wise and not NH-wise. The Maintenance and Repair activities of NHs are taken up based on severity of damages, traffic density, site condition, *inter-se*-priority and availability of funds.

By-pass around Dina Nagar on Pathankot-Amritsar Highway

1145. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the construction of by-pass around Dina Nagar on the Pathankot-Amritsar Highway has been awarded to a contractor;

(b) if so, by when the work on the project is likely to commence and would become operational; and

(c) the cost involved in the project and the extent to which that has been provided for during the year 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Detailed Project Report for four laning of Pathankot-Amritsar section of NH-15 including construction of Dina Nagar bypass on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode is under preparation. It is too early to decide the date of commencement and operation of four laning of this stretch.

(c) Pathankot-Amritsar section of NH-15 has been identified for four laning under National Highways Development Project Phase-III on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis.

Shortage of skilled staff in shipping lines

1146. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of skilled staff in domestic shipping lines;

(b) if so, the number of vacant posts; and

(c) the steps Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per estimates received from the Indian National Shipowners' Association (INSA), there is a shortfall of about 834 officers in Indian flag vessels, as of June, 2007.